

2,398 U.S. PLANES DOWNED OVER NORTH VIET NAM

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SOUTH VIETNAM

**2nd CONGRESS OF HEROES, MODEL FIGHTERS AND CALLANT
COMBATANTS OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM PEOPLE'S L.A.F.
VIVID EXPRESSION OF THE WILL TO FIGHT
AND TO DEFEAT THE AMERICAN AGGRESSORS**

REPORTAGE ON THE OPENING SESSION

(Pages 4-5)



President Nguyen Huu Tho delivers the opening speech

OPENING SPEECH OF PRESIDENT NGUYEN HUU THO

Dear Comrades,

ON behalf of the Presidium of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. Central Committee, I wish to convey warm greetings to the Second Congress of Heroes, Model Fighters and Gallant Combatants of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces.

Our Congress opens at a time when we are recording big victories, marking the rapid growth of our armed forces and people over the

past two years. Following the brilliant victories of last year's dry and rainy seasons, this dry season, the heroic South Viet Nam armed forces and people have maintained their initiative on the battlefields, continually attacked the enemy and scored the greatest successes so far in the military, political and diplomatic fields, driving him into a more serious quandary and passive position. Those tremendous successes of our armed forces and people bear a com-

derable strategic significance as they repeatedly foiled the very important initial steps of the American aggressors' "limited war." The U.S. "two-pincer" strategy — "search and destroy" and "pacification" — have come to a lamentable grief. Not only did the enemy fail to attain his strategic objectives, he received telling counterblows. With a 1,200,000 strong army, he could not wrest back the initiative on the battlefield, but lapsed further into strategic pas-

divity and an ever more defensive position. All his large-scale operations failed; his combat effectiveness was very low; the number of his casualties was high. In killing his losses in war means war was very heavy and his tactics had gone bankrupt. Through actual fighting he better understood the strategy and points of the U.S. expeditionary troops and better realized the immense strength of people's war. From these experiences, improved our people's war strategy and tactics and realize more clearly the laws governing the development of the national liberation revolution in South Viet Nam, - which makes all our armed forces and people more confident in their possibility to win the final victory over the U.S. imperialists.

Our Congress opens after a historic event which constitutes a source of immense joy, inspiration and pride for all our armed forces and people: the Extraordinary Congress of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation which has unanimously approved the Front's new Political Programme whose echo is resounding far and wide in our country and in the world. That in a programme of broad national union of international solidarity and of determination to fight and defeat the U.S. aggressors, a programme for national reconstruction and for the eventual reunification of our country.

Our Congress opens at a moment when our armed forces and people, availing themselves of their successes, continue to perform feats of arms in Quang Tri, Thuan Thien, Da Nang, Bien Hoa, Phuoc Vinh, Binh Lang, Ngai Gio, Ca Chi and Cao Tho, thereby pushing the U.S. aggressors and their valets

rapidly towards a complete defeat: where the army and people of our blood seek North enthusiastically responding to President Hanoi's "Minh Khai" slogan for "aggression against national salvation" sacred appeal, are wholeheartedly and unreservedly supporting the struggle for the liberation of the country. We have dealt repeated heavy blows at the invaders and brought down the 2,200th American aircraft, when the countries in the world are all praising the brave people of the world over, the anti-U.S. movement and the movement against aggression in the United States itself are condemning the aggressive actions of U.S. imperialism, warmly shoring up our people's just resistance and shoulder to shoulder with us in opposing the common enemy.

Ours is a congress of victors, that of elite fighters, representatives of the epoch of struggle against U.S. imperialism, in the forefront of which our people have the honour to fight. Our Congress does not only represent the cream of our armed forces but it is also the condensed, magnificent and vivid expression of the indomitable spirit of our 14 million compatriots in the South, of men and women who have the heart to fight and the determination to defeat the U.S. aggressors. Clearly, it deserves to be called the congress of the brave, the congress of the resolute to fight and defeat

The Extraordinary Congress of the Front held recently highly valued the military successes of our armed forces and people, highlighted the exploits of the people's Liberation troops, worthy sons of our people who deserve the confidence of our 31 million compatriots in both parts of the country.

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IN a speech at a dinner organized by the Democratic Party in Washington on Oct. 7, President Johnson once again asserted that he will continue his policy of aggression, he is carrying out in Viet Nam. He kept clamouring "I will do everything in my power" and based his firm determination to see it (the Viet Nam war - Ed.) through. He also egged on the American people to follow him in a stalemated adventure. "Next year will be a testing time for America," Indated with pride, he termed the dissentient voices raised against his policy as "the voice of the ostrich." (AP, Oct. 7)

Thus, in one week beginning Sept. 30, the Jopman of the White House twice came out in defence of his own policy. But knowledgeable people can see that he had pursued an ostrich policy.

In fact, the aggressors are running into danger, on the battlefield, in the first place. Failures in the rainy season which came after the 1960-61 dry season, under the hammer blows of the L. A. F. from Highway 9 just south of the 17th parallel to Highway 4 in the Mekong Delta or deep in U.S. strategic bases have warned the Pentagon of the sinking of the U.S. expeditionary forces in the tropical rains as well as the despair in the dry season which has arrived. The U.S. tiger looked in a cage, need by the West to U.S. marines of Con Trin, is also the picture of the whole U.S. expeditionary forces in South Viet Nam, in the midst of the country people's war. New escalation in the North only brings back and sends to the other side of the Pacific. The Sunday Times on Oct. 1 wrote: "Two and a half years of bombing the North has done little if

JOHNSON'S ONLY ANSWER: CONTINUED WAR ESCALATION

anything to shorten the war (Ed.) and could not do so, even if the bombing were intensified."

In the international arena, at the U.N. General Assembly, Washington's setbacks are all the more damaging, since this international forum has been manipulated by the U.S. for interfering in the Viet Nam issue. Not only have many member countries maintained that a debate on the Viet Nam problem is not within the province of the U.N., but all speakers, except a few paltry satellites, even if they refrain from condemning the U.S. war in Viet Nam, have demanded that the U.S. stop bombing North Viet Nam. Apart from the socialist countries, such as Kenya, Somalia, Indonesia, and India, and worth noting, many N.A.T.O. member countries such as France, Belgium, Norway, Denmark and Canada, and even Dutch Foreign Minister J. Luns, the strongest supporter of American policies in Western Europe, have followed that course. The Italian president, who also expressed a similar view during a meeting with President Johnson. Outside the U.N., attention is drawn to the British Labour Party Congress in Scarborough which adopted a resolution

demanding that the British government disassociate itself from American policies in Viet Nam.

Political pressure weighs so heavily on the White House that Senator J.S. Cooper has had to exclaim: "The necessity of a cessation of bombing is becoming a worldwide judgment. It is one which the United States cannot ignore." (UPI, Oct. 3)

While the U.S. has been "utterly isolated" before world public opinion, as the Western press puts it, the ranks of U.S. raters are being played by an "over-all turn of mind" as *Le Monde* correspondent has revealed in a dispatch from Washington. In the fever of the policy crisis, the U.S. Congress is being split along different lines. Johnson's stand has become isolated more than ever before, and even his strong supporters now seem to put more stress on the search for a way out (Continued on page 7)

Johnson's option is inconsistent with the fundamental interests of the overwhelming majority of the American people who are demanding that the U.S. end its aggression in both South and North Viet Nam, bring its expeditionary troops home and let the South Vietnamese people settle their own affairs themselves.

The way he has chosen is the continuation of war escalation in Viet Nam and its intensification and expansion by dangerous steps in defiance of world public opinion.

No sooner had he concluded his speech than U.S. aircraft made a bombing attack on Cao Bang province close to China's frontier, while other bombing raids, rather frequent, were continuously directed against Hal Phong city, the Viet Nam-China borderland and other remote areas. In an effort to remedy the precarious situation south of the 17th parallel, the Pentagon, according to reports from Washington, has mapped out the plan for a new adventure: troop landing in North Viet Nam.

Senator Vance Hartke has said: "There is no question that an invasion by the U.S. seriously would be an October 21 outside the White House the biggest meetings and demonstrations known so far. (On October 9, the "Negotiation Now" organization handed to the American Congress a petition bearing 500,000 signatures demanding an end to the bombing of North Viet Nam."

Having gloomy prospects before him in his effort to preserve the President's Chair in the coming elections, Johnson conducted his own defence, claiming that he could "temporarily increase his popularity by changing his Viet Nam policy." (Rader, Oct. 7) and that "I have made my choice (AP, Oct. 7, 1967).

The U.S. policy deadlock in Viet Nam, its military stalemate here, stems from the transience and bellicosity of the U.S. government headed by Johnson. It has deliberately turned its back against the correct aspirations and views of progressive mankind as far as the Viet Nam settlement is concerned. It has still failed to draw a useful lesson from its military defeats. The valiant fight of the Vietnamese people against both the South and the North brings home the truth that only the U.S. and its aggressors can serve as an eye-opener for the U.S. aggressors. On the other hand, this fight has more and more elucidated the correct stand of the Vietnamese people as expounded in the 4-point stand of the D.R.V.N. Government which has won broad approval and support

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ON THE OCCASION OF THE 22nd ANNIVERSARY OF THE PROCLAMATION OF INDEPENDENCE OF LAOS (October 12, 1945)

GREAT VICTORY OF THE LAO PEOPLE

CELEBRATING on Oct. 12, 1967 the 22nd anniversary of the Proclamation of Independence of Laos, an independent and free country, the Vietnamese people have heartily had a historical day of the fraternal Lao people.

22 years ago, on the same day, the Lao people in co-ordination with the brother Vietnamese in Indochina rose up almost with bare hands to seize power from the Japanese fascists, thereby ending 60 years of French colonial domination.

Gathering under the leading flag of the *New Lao Issue*, the prefiguration of the *New Lao Hakkai*, headed by Prince Souphanouvong, with the correct political line and policy of broad based national unity, and closely co-ordinating their action with the peoples of Viet Nam and Cambodia, the Lao people carried out a long year arduous but glorious resistance and finally overthrew the French colonialist expeditionary corps backed by the U.S. interventionists.

The 1954 Geneva Agreements on Indo-China were signed, which recognized the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Laos. This constituted a very important victory of the Lao people in their struggle against foreign aggression and at the same time a valuable contribution to the safeguarding of national independence in South-East Asia and the world.

Replacing the French colonialists, the U.S. imperialists are today plotting to turn Laos into a new-type colony and a military base in Indo-China. South-East Asia and the world.

They sabotaged the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Indo-China which concerned Laos and the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos, overthrew the national union government of which *New Lao Hakkai* was a member (the national union government was established in 1957 and the tripartite national union government on June 23, 1961, hoping to annex the Lao liberated zones by force. After the coup d'etat against the tripartite national union government on April 19, 1964, the U.S. imperialists seized the Vietnamese administration and relying on it and on a 70,000 strong U.S. military army, maintained and equipped and commanded by U.S. military advisers, they conducted tens of thousands of nibbling attacks against the Lao liberated zone, mounted numerous "pacification" raids on the area, and systematically controlled by them and stepped up the aggressive war against Laos under the form of a "special war" to an unprecedented fierceness. In co-ordination with the operations the U.S. imperialists have openly used aircraft (including B-57 strategic bombers, April 1966) based on the 7th Fleet in Thailand and South Viet Nam, and extremely barbarous mass killings of Lao people with napalm, phosphorus bombs, steel-pellet bombs and toxic chemical weapons, destroying densely populated areas and enterprises in the liberated and moral life in the service zone, thus commit-

ting countless savage crimes. In spite of repeated defeats in Laos as well as in South Viet Nam, the U.S. imperialists are still fanatically intensifying and expanding their way of aggression in Laos, plotting new adventures and preparing public opinion for the dispatch of an U.S. expeditionary force to commit aggression in Laos, thus aggravating the situation there and jeopardizing peace and security in Indo-China and South East Asia.

The Vietnamese people express their deep admiration for the brother Lao people who, in defiance of such a cruel enemy and under the clearheaded leadership of the

New Lao Hakkai headed by Prince Souphanouvong, have been fighting very valiantly and unflinchingly during the past 13 years to defend the liberated zone and have scored brilliant victories.

The greatest and most significant victory is that the *New Lao Hakkai* has been constantly holding high the banner of national independence, peace and neutrality and that with its correct line and policy, it has gathered broad masses of people from all walks of life, various religious communities and classes into a broader and more solid National United Front against the U.S. imperialists and for national salvation. What is

most remarkable is the strengthening of the alliance between the *New Lao Hakkai* and the patriotic neutral forces, an alliance which has consolidated the broad-based national union of the Lao people, thus dealing a deadly blow at the perfidious divisive policy of the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys.

The Vietnamese people are very elated and enthusiastic at the achievements gained by the fraternal Lao people and regard these as their own. These achievements are a source of encouragement for the peoples of the two countries in their struggle against the common enemy, the U.S. aggressors and their hench-

men. However, imperialist and wicked the U.S. imperialists may be, the Vietnamese people firmly conviction that with the strength of the broad-based national union, the Lao people will be able to carry out the closely co-ordinated actions of the brother Indo-Chinese peoples, with great solidarity and support from the socialist countries and progressive mankind, throughout the world, the fraternal Lao people will completely defeat the U.S. imperialists' intervention and aggression and achieve a peaceful, independent, neutral, democratic, united and prosperous Laos.



1. A unit of the Lao Liberation People's Army. 2. Tending the Winter-Spring ricecrop in Xiang Luong (Sam Neua province). 3. Medical workers constantly care for the health of the people. 4. A complementary education class.

SUCCESS OF 22 YEARS OF REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE OF THE LAO PEOPLE

1. MILITARY SUCCESSES

a) *Achievements of 9 Years of Struggle Against the French Colonialists:* 2,000 battles were fought in which 17,000 enemy soldiers were put out of action including 1,000 officers (from subalterns to field officers) and 20,000 weapons of various descriptions and over 300 tons of military equipment seized.

b) *Achievements in the Struggle Against the U.S. Imperialists and their Henchmen:* From 1954 to the end of August 1967, 79,000 enemy soldiers were wiped out including 31,400 killed, 48,600 wounded and 58,870 who were captured, or surrendered. Thousands of tons of arms and ammunition were seized. — Between May 17, 1964 and September 21, 1967, 665 U.S. aircraft were downed or destroyed. — Over 30 motor-boats and craft were sunk or set ablaze.

II. BUILDING OF THE LIBERATED AREAS

From 2 regroupment provinces (Phong Sa Ly and Sam Neua) in 1954, the liberated areas covered in 1967 two thirds of the Lao territory with half the country's total population. Laos was a backward agrarian country with a poor economy and a declining culture (in 1953 she had only one secondary school, 6,000 pupils of general education, 1 doctor and 200 hospital beds). Now, in 5 years of national construction, the liberated areas alone have recorded the following achievements:

Agriculture: Up to now 40 small and medium-size hydraulic works have been built to irrigate 8,000 hectares of

ricefields. After the successful experiment made in 1965 on the cultivation of the winter-spring rice, at present 2 provinces boast two rice crops (by tradition, the Lao peasants used to grow one crop per year only).

Handicrafts: Within a short period of time, 18 enterprises have been built in the liberated areas such as weaving and rice husking mills, ready-made clothing factories, earthenware, motor-car repair workshops, etc.

Commerce: Communication lines have been repaired and developed. State shops have been set up in all districts, to supply masses of products and other goods directly to the people (including minority people) and buy forest and agricultural products from them.

Culture and Education: There are 824 general education establishments including 7 secondary schools (with 2,500 teachers and 37,000 pupils), 3 elementary teachers' schools, 1 secondary technical school, and 100 primary schools. Since 1963, 550,000 text books have been printed. The Lao language is taught in primary and elementary schools. The Mon script has been popularized.

Health Service: There are in the liberated areas 14 hospitals and specialized departments, a widespread network of infirmaries, first-aid stations and maternity homes, and a dozen mobile medical teams.

— Over 200 doctors, assistant doctors and pharmacists and 4,000 nurses.

— A number of drug-workers producing over 10 tons of medicines a year (one third of which is made from local materials).

VICTIMS OF U.S. STEEL-PELLET BOMBS ON SEPT. 28, 1967 IN THANH HOA



Tran Van Long, 10, and Tran Thi Chu, 12, 3rd grade pupils, Ha Phu school.

FROM magnificent Mexico to San Juan de Cuba, bathed in the Autumn light of the Caribbean Sea, from Port Etienne open to the Atlantic winds to sunny Mecca the Holy City, from the sandy beaches to the peaceful villages of Hawaii, the grand State of the U.S.A., in all its school-ways to the parallel, millions of children have resumed their way to school, with their hearts filled with joy and their minds with new dreams.

On this parallel, a small village school of Viet-Nam Ha Phu village, Ha Trung district, Thanh Hoa province, began its school-year with a tragedy. The account of the event was told to us by Nguyen Thi Thanh, 6, pupil of the 2nd form at a press conference held on October 4, 1967 in Hanoi.

Said she: "I got up early on the morning of Wednesday September 27. I washed my face, combed my hair, then took my anti-spitter strap hat and went to school. I also picked up my mates Hoa and Nhung, who lived near my house. We came early to school. We skipped a little before entering the class

room. After the arithmetic lesson, we had a little break.

"Then came dictation with a text entitled: 'The Poets of the School'. As we began writing, an alert went. Our mistress shouted: 'Everybody to the shelters, quickly!' As I was running to a trench, bombs exploded. We lay down in no time. Feet, hands and a great pain in an arm. I sat up, I saw by my hand with a bit of white brain coming out and blue blood in the leg and in the belly. I shouted, 'Help, stand up and run to cover.' But she could hardly cover. She bled her wounds and tried to lift her up and carry her on my back. Nhung said to me: 'Leave me and run off. I am seriously wounded, and too heavy for you. Run to safety, Thanh!'

She did not immediately think cover. She ran to a first aid station asking people to help Hoa and Nhung.

Ho, Nhung and Thanh were not the only victims. 2,000 round bombs containing 300,000 steel pellets killed 33 people, wounded 130 others and 2 mistresses. In addition 7 inhabitants in the bombed

area were killed and 15 wounded.

It was not all on the following day, 4 American planes dropped 18 bombs on the site of the school.

Thus, the school of Ha Phu was severely damaged, more than those of Thi Dan and Huong Phai attacked respectively on November 21, 1966 and February 9, 1966.

This new crime is to be added to the list of U.S. systematic aggression against North Viet Nam schools. Up to June 1967, 59 educational establishments were struck by U.S. aircraft, and had over 1,000 teachers and pupils killed or wounded. It is remarkable that since before the bombing of this school year, such raids have been multiplied on many places in the D.R.V.N., even in the heart of Hanoi and the suburbs of Ha Phu.

The criminal raid on Ha Phu was an indication of Washington's plan of "pacification with a view to intimidating the North Vietnamese

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VIENT NAM COURIER

VIENT NAM COURIER

SECOND CONGRESS OF HEROES, MODEL FIGHTERS AND GALANT COMBATANTS OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM LIBERATION ARMY FORCES OF ARMS AND MEN



In these glorious, historic days of the nation, when the South Vietnamese people were enthusiastically welcoming the Political Programme of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. and when the gun reports of victorious attacks came in quick succession in both parts of the country, the Second Congress of Heroes, Model Fighters and Gallant Combatants of the South Viet Nam People's L.A.F. solemnly opened in a liberated area of South Viet Nam.

The bright sunshine of this Autumn morning danced joyfully on the brightly colourful forest of flags and flowers which were waving to the finest sons and daughters of the Southern Brass Wall now entering the splendidly decorated meeting hall.

The Vietnamese heroes and heroines of the "fight-and-defeat" Yanks were coming to the Congress with immense joy and pride. Here were delegates from undaunted Quang Tri-Thua Thien, who had achieved glorious feats of arms at Doc Nien, Gio Linh, Phu Hai and Highway 9. They included Lich, the woman guerrilla of the jungled mountains of Thua Thien who had struck fear into the enemy's heart; Phan Thanh Chung, the spearhead against the enemy at Tan Le and Doc Mien; and Nguyen Viet Phong, who, fighting his first battle together with another guerrilla, had harassed a full-size U.S. battalion for a whole day.

And here was the delegation from heroic and undaunted Central Trung Bo, bringing along the red scarf worn by martyred hero Nho My who had, by himself, stopped a whole convoy of the French aggressors in the 3th Zone, and

now glowing with honour after the battles of Ba Gia, Van Tuong, Fiet Ma and Da Nang. There was Quang Nam with the red banner "Loyal, courageous and stubborn, leading the fight against Yanks" represented by Nguyen Ngoc Hinh, an all-perfect cadre who had wonderfully organized and commanded daring attacks on Chin Lai air base and the destruction of Gia Hoa position; Truong Van Hoa, who had 7 times won the title of first-class "Valiant anti-Yank fighter"; Thach Minh Tam, a boy Kpaklong of heroic Plet Me, who had wiped out two enemy soldiers with only two arrows, as his application for voluntary military service; and Nguyen Cong Tong, an outstanding company commander who had annihilated the whole command of a U.S. multi-battalion paratroop force at Thuan Nam.

Attending the Congress was also the delegation from Southern Trung Bo, a very tough battalions which had achieved splendid success, with the AI, the banner-bearer in bringing down U.S. planes with infantry weapons, with Le Van Hang, a valiant company commander who had fought over 130 battles, and with Nguyen Van Son, who

had once attacked Da Lat city with resounding success.

The delegation from Eastern Nam Bo came to the Congress with the victorious son of a died satchel charge to accomplish his mission then rushed forward to seize a bridge head; Nguyen Van Le, who had wiped out 700 enemy troops including 400 G.I.'s with mine, setting an individual record in destroying the enemy; the good shot Nguyen Van Quang, who preferred to die a glorious death rather than live on bonded knees, who, single handedly, had fought throughout most of the day against thousands of G.I.'s, and who once manned a heavy machine gun to attract the enemy's air and artillery power to his unit, killing in all 160 G.I.'s, Australian and puppet soldiers; Chay-year-old Ho Van Son, who, with deep hatred for the Yanks, had used weapons captured from them to kill them and has to his

many daring attacks on the enemy bases which horrified the enemy and found big success at home against the Yanks, also represented by 61-year-old U.A. who had struck to his native land and destroyed 3 enemy armoured cars, and the 17-year-old girl, Nguyen Thi Tiep, who had shot 7 G.I.'s dead and blasted an enemy tank.

The resounding victories won on the battlefield were the result of a well concerted fighting. Present at the Congress were also delegates from various branches of activity and various armed services—writers, engineers and signal corps, army medical, education, transport, research and so on. Nguyen Van Huet had lived in a deep jungle for 5 or 6 years on end to keep a store, during an enemy raid he had fought valiantly into the enemy's hands. Once with his army group he fought a whole day, wiping out hundreds of them and keeping the store safe. Nho Van Ranch, nicknamed "Road and bridge engineer," with a jungle knife, led his unit to open 33 jungle trails totalling more than 200 km, and build 55 bridges, some of them 200 metres long, capable of accommodating the group of Die Limb women transport workers had many times carried supplies, Chay-year-old Ho Van Son, who, with deep hatred for the Yanks, had used weapons captured from them to kill them and has to his

the enemy, had fought stubbornly, without letting a single round of ammunition fall into the enemy's hands. Braving all dangers, they had fought by every means to remove wounded fighters for timely treatment at hospitals. Gunner Ha Minh Quang had destroyed over 20 armoured cars. Thinh, leader of a signal platoon, had held a height for two days running to maintain liaison and thus create conditions for other units to annihilate an enemy battalion. Huynh Thuc Ba, a "devoted physician and tender mother" of Central Trung Bo, Tran, a headless peasant trained into medical doctor, had worked with self devotion and, together with his medical team, saved over 1,000 wounded army men, some in a critical state.

47 NEWLY PROMOTED HEROES

- ★ 10 martyrs
- ★ 4 women
- ★ 5 fighters of national minorities
- ★ 11 guerrillas
- ★ 12 regional army men
- ★ 19 regular army men

ident, Mue Nguyen Thi Diuh Deputy Commander of the South Viet Nam L.A.F., Tran Quoc Vinh, Deputy Political Commissar of the A.F., Nguyen Truong Thanh, hero of the Liberation Army, Nguyen Van Lan, model fighter of Eastern Nam Bo, Nguyen Thi Hanh, model fighter of Central Nam Bo, Binh Van Tran, model fighter of the Saigon-Gia Dinh area, Thanh Minh Tam, of the minority ethnic in the Western High Plateaux, model fighter of Central Trung Bo, Nguyen Ngoc Binh, model fighter of Central Trung Bo, Ho Duc, of the Pa Co minority group, model fighter of the Western High Plateaux, Ta Quang Ty and Nguyen Duc Nghia, model fighters of the main force units of Eastern Nam Bo, and others.

The army band struck up and the women artists of the Liberation Army Song and Dance Ensemble in their nice uniforms rushed forward to present fresh bouquets to members of the Presidium amidst prolonged and thunderous applause. The Presidium stepped forward and distributed the flowers to the delegates. A moving sight came when President Nguyen Huu Tho presented a bouquet to comrade Lich, a young girl from the jungled mountains of Quang Tri-Thua Thien, and Mue Nguyen Thi Diuh, the youngest delegate. U.A. deeply moved, his hand quivering with a mass of roses, held tightly the hands of the Deputy Political Commissar of the L.A.F., Tran Quoc Vinh, and the women artists. In an atmosphere of overwhelming enthusiasm, President Nguyen Huu Tho delivered the opening speech.

On behalf of the President of the N.F.L., Comrade Nguyen Huu Tho, he greeted the Congress and informed the delegates that the Political Programme adopted at the recent Extraordinary

WASHINGTON: In comfortable drawing-rooms, White House and Pentagon men discuss. These men have at their disposal the greatest industrial potential of the imperialist world, hundreds of billions of dollars. And yet, their faces show anguish, their opinions are divided, they groan their teeth. What is to be done in Viet Nam?

Somewhere in the free zone of South Viet Nam, here as everywhere else in the free zone, napalm, phosphorus, fragmentation bombs may be rained from the sky at any time; people are crowded in dark and dark shelters and most content themselves with modest rations. The Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation meets in an extraordinary com. Pacem are relaxed, discussions go on in a calm atmosphere, opinions are carefully weighed without anyone being in a hurry to speak. One would think that for these men and women, U.S. aircraft do not exist! The Political Programme adopted at the Congress not only deals with the present struggle but also tackles problems of the future: a programme worked out by men certain of their cause, confident of final victory.

Washington: the Pentagon men master their best techniques, feverishly discuss how to kill more people and cattle, how to destroy more villages and crops; they must at all costs improve their napalm and fragmentation bombs, set up an effective electronic barrier, send new toxic chemicals.

Somewhere in the free zone of South Viet Nam, another congress meet, not to discuss techniques and freedom, with reiterate, intelligent, com. Pacem are relaxed, discussions go on in a calm atmosphere, opinions are carefully weighed without anyone being in a hurry to speak. One would think that for these men and women, U.S. aircraft do not exist! The Political Programme adopted at the Congress not only deals with the present struggle but also tackles problems of the future: a programme worked out by men certain of their cause, confident of final victory.

Two worlds face each other: on one side, neo-colonialist policy, one of plunder, relying on the most up-to-date techniques; on the other, a just cause, that of national independence and freedom, with reiterate, intelligent, com. Pacem are relaxed, discussions go on in a calm atmosphere, opinions are carefully weighed without anyone being in a hurry to speak. One would think that for these men and women, U.S. aircraft do not exist! The Political Programme adopted at the Congress not only deals with the present struggle but also tackles problems of the future: a programme worked out by men certain of their cause, confident of final victory.

Here is Nguyen Van Bo, who was not yet twenty taken prisoner by the enemy, he kept his spirit of defiance, not yet to annihilate the greatest power of the summer of enemy troops. He blew himself up with a mine in the midst of an enemy barracks, killing more than one hundred American and puppet men and officers, destroying several vehicles. That was the first act of destruction in Saigon.

Here is Pham Van Col, a native of Ca Chi, a district adjoining Saigon, which America troops have repeatedly "sopped up," which B-52s have repeatedly bombed, where not a house, not a tree is left standing. But people have remained there, and whenever an American column penetrates into Ca Chi, it meets a large proportion of its objectives before being compelled to withdraw. For in Ca Chi, men like Pham Van Col are bent on fighting, fighting with every means at their disposal, at any time of day and night, seeing every opportunity to destroy Yanks troops and tanks. 31,135 helicopters and aircraft, before sacrificing his life, Pham Van Col killed 120 Yankers, destroyed 5 armoured cars, downed one aircraft.

Here is To Thi Huynh, a trail girl who led a guerrilla unit in Tra Vinh province. When she was 15, while grazing buffalo, she made traps and weapons. Then together with other young girls, she organized the guerrilla unit of her village, which fought 70 battles and put out of action 300 enemy troops. To Thi Huynh alone annihilated 100.

Here is Doan Van Chin, of Cao Thua province, who has been responsible for many innovations in turning out all kinds of weapons. In his hands, dot bombs and shells, debris of American planes and helicopters, as well as bamboo and old nails become deadly weapons against the Yanks. What is brilliant, the engines he produces are simple and easy to handle; his methods of manufacturing them can readily be popularized. He has worked out a method of training become to attack enemy columns raiding villages.

Here is Ho Duc, of the Western High Plateaux, an indefatigable supply carrier, who for months on end, with heavy loads on his back, walks up hills and down dale, to bring supplies to the fighters. As say his comrades, he has a sense of duty and a boldness of bronze.

Here is Tran Van Ba, a poor peasant who by dint of hard work and patient efforts has become an outstanding doctor. He has treated 100 patients for his own and still, and also for his boundless affection for his patients. Here is Nguyen Van Tang who, operating in the midst of Saigon in spite of the tight network of American puppet police, has led his group in bold attacks on enemy troops, using terror tactics on the Yanks.

One could never finish with the examples of heroism, determination and intelligence which constitute the spirit of the people's fight. It is in this fight, in this part and parcel of daily life, just as courage and creative intelligence are the attitudes of every man and woman. One has only to step out of one's door, says

One must learn to lengthen the various military, political, social and ideological factors which have led the South Vietnamese people to achieve such resounding victories over the Yanks. For people of our times, and for historians of the future, this has been and will remain a subject of thinking and meditation.

But right now, one can assert that in South Viet Nam, the use of his courage, organizational ability and creative intelligence has triumphed over brutal techniques, and that the cause of national independence, peace, freedom, and social progress has prevailed over the most cruel and perfidious designs of Yankee imperialism.

Photo: Presidium of the Congress

HANDI TRIBUNE

A lasting peace in the Middle East is possible only on the basis of the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Arab countries. Israel must withdraw immediately and unconditionally her aggressive army and hand back to the U.A.R. Syria and Jordan the territories she has taken from them. The American and British imperialists should put an end to their policy of aggression and intervention and refrain from using Israel as a tool against the Arab countries. The just position of the Arab countries is staunchly supported by the peoples all over the world.

ed to rise up and resist foreign aggression in defence of the Fatherland. Another striking feature is that the emulation movement in the South in the past two years, together with that in the North, has further united our people in both parts of the country in common will to defeat the common enemy—the U.S. aggressor.

From this fight, very fierce but victorious, have emerged many heroes and gallant fighters. Through the valiant deeds and heroic stories, and with host of typical and lively facts, the Deputy Political Commissar pointed out the seven splendid manifestations of revolutionary heroism:

A black and white photograph showing a person in a dark, textured environment, possibly a cave or a dark room. The person is wearing a dark jacket and is positioned in the foreground, looking towards the camera. In the background, there is a large, light-colored, irregular shape that appears to be a rock formation or a large object. The overall atmosphere is dark and mysterious.

6. Thorough understanding of the line, guidelines and policies of the Front, and scrupulous obedience to the Party's decisions.

7. Thorough grasp of the spirit of self-reliance as the basic factor of victory, bringing into full play one's resources and strength, and not depending on any other way and means to fight the enemy.

In conclusion, Tran Quoc Vinh quoted President Ho Chi Minh's words: "No thing is more precious than independence and freedom. We must have them. We are resolved to stand shoulder to shoulder with the rest of our people to develop the effects of the revolution to the end, and to fight yet harder to triumph and to achieve complete victory. We are determined to hold higher our fighting banner and to march forward with determination and courage!"

The meeting hall again burst into prolonged applause to the tune of the army band mixed with shouts of "Long live the revolution!"

MEETING IN SUPPORT OF THE "WEEK OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLES OF ASIA"

ON the evening of Oct. 4, in Hanoi, the Viet Nam Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee held a meeting to support the "Week of Solidarity with the peoples of Asia" (from Sept. 30 to Oct. 6).

The meeting passed a resolution condemning the U.S. imperialists and their followers' all-out attempts to oppress all neo-colonialist barbarous tricks with a view to maintaining their colonial domination in Asia. It also extended sincere thanks to the Asian and world's people

attacks against the enemy in the Mekong Delta, and returning to Western reports.

THU DAU MOT

On Oct. 2, 1967, the L.A.F. launched a surprise attack on Battalion 4, Regiment 1, Division 5, some 10 km northwest of Saigon, the Phong Press Agency reports.

Taken unawares, the members of the battalion were driven into confusion right from the beginning.

The L.A.F. virtually cut the whole battalion off, including its commander, an American "advisor," captured 20 puppet soldiers.

MEKONG DELTA

Oct. 2. One post south of Vinh Long province capital was overrun.

**CENTRAL SOUTH
VIET NAM**

Oct. 5: The L.A.P. attacked the military railway station area in Hoa Trang. The enemy's 105 mm. guns were disabled and locomotives were destroyed. The encampments of U.S. Paratroops Division lost 100 men. 233 enemy soldiers in Ky town were mortared. Enemy sources listed 35 G.I.'s knocked out.

Oct. 6: A puppet signal unit in Hue city and the mobile unit in the suburbs of the city pounded by mortars. The enemy sustained heavy losses.

Oct. 6: A bridge on Highway 19 near Hue was blown.

Oct. 7: A company of U.S. Division lost most of Thanh Kien town was surrounded. The enemy's puppet companies, one of them: Mo Bai and the other one

from the people and governments of many countries. This stand has also been expounded in the Political Programmes of the various communist parties. It was made public recently and it is finding a wide echo, even in the U.S.

According to reports from Paris, the opening ceremony conference on Oct. 7, French ex-premier Maudes France declared:

"We admire the small nations which, with a courageous courage fought against one of the world's biggest powers with extraordinary sense of self-reliance and a true sense of self-respect and this valiant spirit bring honour to mankind."

It is also the U.S. stop bombing North Viet Nam and take the initiative in ending the war.

At the National Congress of the National Anti-Communist Sainbury also referred to the determination of the Viet-

urban centers, villages...
little Thanh said to us:
am fond of learning. I
that the Yachse Nordviet
could be wiped out so
I can go on peacefully
my learning at school."
ren't this girl's words in
cues a real accusation
into the aggressors, an
ession of the North Viet-

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Read:
ON THE SOCIALIST REVOLUTION
(Volume 3, in English
by LE DUAN, First Secretary
of the Committee of the Viet Nam
FOREIGN LANGUAGES PUBLISHING HOUSE
Distributor: KUNH

are aware that
much room for
improvement in the
of our paper.
nology for this
ing and highly
ate all your sug-
as they will help
serve you more
tly in future.

ON Oct. 19, 767 thousands of refugees backed by Indonesian reactionaries, stormed the Chinese Embassy in Jakarta. The Chinese Embassy building, wrecked the Embassy buildings and brutally beat up staff members of the Embassy, injuring nine people. Every one knows that for nearly one year the

worthy sons of Quang Trung
Thua Thien who have evinced
wonderful courage, those
of the Western High Plateau,
Central and Southern Tru-
bo who have endured untold
hardships and shown tena-
city and staunchness, and
those of Eastern Central and Western
Nam Bo who have won
glorious victories. I greet
delegates of indomitable

The N.F.L. Central Committee very highly appreciates the achievements of the Liberation Armed Forces in the great struggle of our people against the U.S. for national salvation. Once again, on its behalf I congratulate the cadres and fighters of the Liberation Armed Forces in the South. We who have recently scored splendid victories, making a worthy contribution

The reality on the South Viet Nam battlefield shows that never before did our armed forces and people enjoy so favourable conditions to win big victories as today. Never did we hold the initiative of action so firmly and extend our offensive position on so many fields as we do now. The possibility for our armed forces and people

On this occasion we all send warm congratulations to our kith and kin in the beloved North who have achieved brilliant exploits. We warmly thank progressive people in the five continents, including the American people, for their wholehearted and ever-stronger support for our struggle.

Once again, on behalf of the Presidium of the N.F.L. Central Committee, I greet the "iron fighters," the worthy sons of the "South Viet Nam Brass Wall," who have con-

[illegible]

**MEETING IN SUPPORT
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MEKONG DELTA

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Oct. 4: A company of

**VIENT SOUTH
VIET NAM**

Ct. 2: The L.A.F. attacked the military railway station in Hue. The station was destroyed and the diesel locomotives were destroyed. The encampments of U.S. troops were destroyed. About 3000 people were killed west of Tam Ky town were mortared. Enemy signal lines were cut 35 Km.

Ct. 3: A puppet signal unit in Hue city and one tank column in the suburbs of the city pushed the enemy back. The enemy sustained heavy losses.

Ct. 4: A bridge on Highway 1 linking Phu Hiep bridge and Hue was mined.

Ct. 7: A company of U.S. Division 101 west of Tam Ky town was annihilated. Two companies of the 101st in Mo; Bai and the other near

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According to reports from Paris, at a press conference on Ct. 7, French pre-press conference said:

"We admire this small unit which has, correspondingly, brought about a great extraordinary self-respect. With some of the world's best and the best spirit bring home to the kind." He also demanded that the United States and North Viet Nam take initiative in ending the

Speaking over the Phnom Penh radio, the French Sainteny also referred to determination of the

Little Thanh said to us,
"I am fond of learning,
hope that the Yankee bomb
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with my learning at school."
Aren't this girl's words
themselves a real accusation
against the aggressors,
expression of the North Vi-

there is much room for improvement in the wording of our paper. We apologise for this shortcoming and highly appreciate all your suggestions as they will help us to serve you more efficiently in future.

EVOLUTION IN VIET NAM
 (English and French)
 Secretary of the Central
 Viet Nam Workers' Party
PUBLISHING HOUSE, HANOI
UNHASABA
 Hanoi, Vietnam

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Oct 6: A convoy of
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Nokm south-west of Saigon
enemy admitted 31 Y

(Volume 3, 1957)
by LE DUAN, F.
Committee of the
FOREIGN LANGUAGE
Distributor :
32, Hai

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6

THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE N.F.L. A POLICY OF PEACE AND NEUTRALITY

WHILE fighting for their sacred national rights, the people of South Viet Nam actively discharge their international duty. Their resistance war against U.S. aggression is an integral part of the revolutionary struggle of the people all over the world.

The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation undertakes to stand within the monolithic bloc of the Indo-Chinese peoples to fight against the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys, to defend the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos.

The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation pledges itself to take an active part in the common struggle of the world's peoples against the bellicose and aggressive imperialists headed by U.S. imperialism, for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress.

(South Viet Nam N.F.L. Political Programme, Part I, Point 3)

THE South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation applies a foreign policy of active neutrality, a foreign policy which guarantees the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the country and helps safeguard world peace. In more concrete terms, this policy consists in the following points:

1. To establish diplomatic relations with all countries regardless of their social and political system, on the principle of mutual respect for each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, without infringement upon each other's territory, without interference into each other's internal affairs, equality, mutual benefits and peaceful co-existence.

To abolish all unequal treaties which the puppet administration has signed with the United States or any other country.

To respect the economic and cultural interests of those countries which sympathize with, support or assist the Vietnamese people's struggle

The foreign policy of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. is peace, neutrality and active contribution to the struggle of the world's peoples against U.S.-headed imperialism, for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress. It is supported by our people in both parts of Viet Nam. We print below excerpts of the programme dealing with this policy and commentaries of the papers Nhan Dan and Giai Phong. — Editor

• • • • •

against U.S. aggression, for national salvation.

To accept technical and economic assistance from any country without political conditions attached.

To join no military alliance; to accept no military personnel or military base of foreign countries on South Viet Nam territory.

2. To strengthen the friendly relations with all countries which sympathize with, support or assist the Vietnamese people's struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation.

To strengthen the relations of good neighbourhood with Cambodia and Laos. To unceasingly strengthen the solidarity and mutual assistance between the peoples of the Indo-Chinese countries,

with a view to defending their respective independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity against the aggressive and war provocation policy of the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen.

3. Actively support the national liberation movement of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America against imperialism and old and new colonialism.

Actively support the struggle of the American people against the U.S. imperialism, especially the war of aggression in Viet Nam.

Actively support the just struggle of Black people in the United States for their fundamental national rights.

Actively support the struggle for peace, democracy and social progress of all countries in the world.

4. Actively struggle to contribute to the safeguarding of world peace, oppose the bellicose and aggressive imperialists headed by U.S. imperialism. Demand the dissolution of the aggressive military blocs and foreign military bases of imperialism.

Unceasingly consolidate and develop relations with international democratic organizations and the peoples of all countries including the American people.

Actively contribute to the consolidation and development of the world peoples' front in support of Viet Nam against the U.S. imperialist aggressors for national independence and peace.

(South Viet Nam N.F.L. Political Programme, Part IV)

IN accordance with the Front's policy of neutrality and on the basis of equality, mutual benefit and respect for the independence and sovereignty of the Vietnamese nation, foreign trade will be expanded, and economic and technical assistance from foreign countries will be accepted, regardless of political and social systems.

(South Viet Nam N.F.L. Political Programme, Part II, Point 4)

TO promote cultural relations with foreign countries on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

(South Viet Nam N.F.L. Political Programme, Part II, Point 4)

TO protect the legitimate rights and interests of all foreign residents who have not co-operated with the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen in oppressing Vietnamese people, who have not harmed the independence and sovereignty of Viet Nam.

To give adequate consideration to the rights and

interests of those foreign residents who have directly or indirectly supported the Vietnamese people's resistance to U.S. aggression, for national salvation.

(South Viet Nam N.F.L. Political Programme, Part II, Point 14)

WHILE fighting for their sacred national rights, the people of South Viet Nam effectively fulfil their internationalist task. Their struggle against U.S. imperialism is part and parcel of the revolutionary struggle of the world's peoples. The international significance of our people's struggle as defined in the Political Programme is a source of inspiration for our armed forces and people. It is not accidental that today the word "Viet Nam" has become familiar to the world's peoples and symbolizes ardent patriotism, staunch anti-imperialist spirit and deep love for freedom and justice. It is not accidental that in the present international arena, the South Viet Nam N.F.L. has appeared as a weighty force enjoying a great prestige and recognized by the governments and peoples of many countries including the progressive sections of the American people as the sole genuine representative of the South Viet Nam people. This foreign policy will certainly receive support and assistance from the world's peoples for the struggle of the South Viet Nam people and will certainly enhance the prestige of the N.F.L. in the world; it will certainly make it possible for our people to make a more effective contribution to the struggle of the world's peoples against imperialism for independence, democracy, peace, and social progress.

(Excerpts from an editorial of Giai Phong (Liberation), organ of the South Viet Nam N.F.L.)

THE foreign policy of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation is a resolute and thorough one: it is aimed at safeguarding South Viet Nam's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity; establishment of diplomatic relations with all countries regardless of their political and social system, on the basis of the principle of equality, mutual benefit and respect for the national rights, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality, mutual interests and peaceful co-existence; non-adherence to any military bloc, acceptance of economic and technical assistance from all countries without political conditions attached, strengthening of good neighbourhood relations with Cambodia and Laos, active support and participation in the liberation movements of the Asian, African and Latin American peoples, and active contribution to the struggle of the world's peoples for national independence, democracy, peace and social progress.

(Excerpts from Nhan Dan editorial, September 3, 1967)

REPEATED VICTORIES OF THE L.A.F.

CHO LON: 2 Puppet Ranger Companies Attacked 45 km East-Northeast of Saigon: 120 Soldiers Wiped Out (Oct. 4).

SOC TRANG: An Enemy Post Assaulted, a Military Sector Shelled: 100 U.S. and Puppet Troops Put out of Action in Two Nights (Sept. 26 and 29).

CU CHI: An Operation by Three Battalions of U.S. Infantry Division 28 Fought Off: 600 G.I.s Knocked Out, 20 Planes Downed, 19 Armoured Cars Destroyed and 4 Cannons Damaged (Sept. 17-27).

BEN TRE: An Operation by Two Enemy Brigades Foiled: 229 G.I.s Wiped Out, 5 Vessels Sunk or Damaged (Sept. 19-23).

THU DAU MOT: 1 Puppet Regular Battalion Wiped Out 70 km North-Northwest of Saigon (Oct. 2).

ON Oct. 4, 1967, the L.A.F. attacked by surprise 3 companies of puppet Rangers encamped in a village some 45 km northeast of Saigon, Giai Phong Press Agency reported. After 15 minutes' fighting, the L.A.F. controlled the situation and pursued the enemy, wiping out 120 puppet troops.

On the night of Sept. 30, the guerrillas and regional army also knocked out one platoon of "civil guards" defending a "strategic hamlet" some 20 km south of Saigon.

SOC TRANG

ACCORDING to Giai Phong Press Agency, the guerrillas in two

nights of Sept. 26 and 29 overran a post, attacked a puppet company, shelled a military sector, knocked out of action two enemy troops and blew up a bridge.

CU CHI

In the Cu Chi battle from Sept. 17 to 27, the guerrillas and regional army of three districts of Cu Chi (Gia Dinh province) together with the guerrillas in Truong Ben district (Tay Ninh province) and guerrillas in Ben Cat district (Thuan Mot, province) fought off the operation by three battalions of U.S. Infantry Division 25 (north Vietnam) and the puppet army put out of action 600 enemy troops, almost all of

them G.I.s, shot down 20 planes, destroyed 19 armoured cars and damaged 4 rocket cannons.

BEN TRE

FROM Sept. 19 to 29, the guerrillas of three districts of Ben Tre, Giong Trom and Mo Cay beat off an operation conducted by two enemy brigades: 229 G.I.s were killed or wounded, 5 enemy vessels sunk or damaged, the same source said.

The enemy's heaviest losses in this raid were that 112 soldiers of the column of a U.S. brigade raiding 4 villages of Ben Tre district were killed or wounded.

(Continued page 7)